

Analysis of War Diary No. 4 of the  
Armament Inspectorate XII b, (Saarbruecken) of the Reich Minister for  
Armament and War Production including the outpost Metz.

Period 1 Apr 1944 - 30 June 1944

Survey over the development of the armament production

1. Status of orders and production

Despite increased air attacks, programs in process could be fulfilled and deliveries executed, except with minor exceptions.  
ARMY PROCUREMENT. Increase in munitions production attained as ordered. The Ebingen plant of the Steel Mill Administration Westmark Reichswerke Hermann Goering increased output of 8.8 mm anti-aircraft shells in June 1944 to 130,000 rounds, despite air raid damage in May.

*Navy*  
~~AIR FORCES~~ PROCUREMENT. Backlog in the production of pressure hulls for submarines was made up and the submarine program 21/23 started favorably. Status of orders from raw materials industries was critical because of air attacks.

Relocated plants partly in production and partly under construction.

2. Loss from air attacks.

Increased air activity in second half of report period again caused considerable loss of manpower hours. The Inspectorate and members of the Armed Forces had to help by emergency measures in order to keep loss in production to a minimum.

3. Allocation of labor

Lack of supervisory and skilled workers.

Decrease of allocation of foreign labor.

A considerable increase of manpower hours was achieved by the utilization of patients in military hospitals.

4. Supply of plants with energy

Electric current. Transmission lines and cables in all sections of the Inspectorate were repeatedly interrupted by air attacks. Systematic assignment of construction crews led to fast repair so that no long interruptions of production occurred.

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Coal

Transportation bottlenecks caused by destruction of railroad installations and lack of freight cars led to serious supply situation. Stocks in steel mills and plants were almost nonexistent. Continued production in several cases was possible only by switching daily deliveries from plant to plant.

Gas

Gas supply met requirements. Some difficulties arose from bomb damage to long distance gas pipes. Damage to the line Burbach-St. Ingbert led to a loss of about 500,000 cubic meters, but quick repair made it possible to make up for delays in deliveries.

5. Supply of plants with the means of production

The situation in this field continued to be critical. The demand for tools, machines, etc., increased so much, especially because of relocation of production facilities in the area of the Armament Inspectorate, that it could be satisfied only partially and with great difficulty. Deliveries from the Strassburg depot relieved the situation in some emergency cases. Partial delivery of sheet metal was obtained. Other deliveries, especially for steel metals, were in part considerably delayed because of air attacks and transportation embargoes.

6. Transportation

Highway transportation is termed "catastrophic". Because of interruption of railroad lines, stocks of generator wood and gasoline could not be supplied. Fuel allocation quotas were considerably curtailed. The need for railroad transportation increased because of the relocation of industries and the expansion of the armament industry. A railroad stoppage in Frankfurt/Main prevented the return of empty freight cars, which in turn led to such an increase in coal stocks at the Saar mines (they reached 280,000 tons) that their storage capacity became exhausted. The following railroad lines were interrupted: Trier-Ehrang, Metz-Sablon, Diedenhofen, Karthaus, Neunkirchen, Homburg, Einsiedlerhof, Saarbruecken (total closure).

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Canal transportation had to be closed down completely in May because the canal drained empty following the destruction by air attack of the dam near Saargemuend.

#### 7. Plant protection

The organization of fire control within the plants proved to be effective in limiting damage resulting from air attacks.

#### Important events for the period:

In the day-to-day events, the following developments can be recognized:

1. Limitation of civilian use of gas was decided.
2. Numerous armament firms were unable to meet their production quotas and were inspected.
3. Attempts were made to shift some of the factory work to home industries and even to military hospitals.
4. Production of generators LK 2,000 for the pursuit plane program is behind schedule.
5. Nine shoe factories in Pirmasens stop operations.
6. Air attack on Saarbruecken, 11 May 1944, caused light damage at Eisen- und Stahlwerke Carlshuette, Diedenhofen.
7. Considerable number of workers is needed to repair damage on marshalling yards at the steel mills and ore mines of Lorraine.
8. Total construction volume of Gau Westmark and Gau Moselland amounts to more than 200,000,000 RM.
9. Air attack on Saarbruecken and Homburg of 23 May 1944: Very great damage to Neunkircher Eisenwerk A. G., Branch Homburg -- partial loss of production for 6 to 8 months. Average damage to Vereinigte Huettenwerke Burbach Eich-Duedelingen, Saarbruecken 5; Burbacher Huette. The Koehl concern, electric motors, was damaged so heavily that the plant had to be relocated.
10. Air attack on Saarbruecken 27 May 1944: Light damage to Maschinenbau AG, formerly Ehrhardt & Sehner, Saarbruecken. Attack centered on main railroad station and freight station Saarbruecken, stations Burbach, Schleifmuehle, and Neunkirchen.

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11. Air attack of 28 June 1944 on Saarbruecken caused considerable disruption in supply of current, gas and water.
12. Lenz A. G. in Zweibruecken and Mannesmann in Buss are to start production of "DOVK 15" for the munitions branch 1 of the German High Command.

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